

Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated Aug. 7, 2004. Claims 9-13, 22-23 and 32-54 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 16 and 28 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 1-8, 14-21, 24-31, 55-59 are currently pending.

Applicant does not concede that the Examiner's remarks and interpretation regarding the claims withdrawn from consideration are proper. However, to expedite prosecution, applicant has canceled most of the claims withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. The remaining claims from those withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner include claims 16, 28 and 58, which depend from claims that were not withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner.

The drawings were objected to as not showing features recited in some of the claims, including claims 11-12 and 22-23. Applicant has canceled claims 12 and 22-23 without prejudice. Applicant has added new Fig. 5d (attached hereto) showing an embodiment including scribe lines formed substantially perpendicular to the leading edge. It is believed that no new matter has been entered. The specification has also been amended to insert reference to Fig. 5d.

The specification was objected to because of the application designation marks in the original filed papers. Applicant has amended the specification to insert the appropriate patent number and application number.

Claim 13 was objected to. Claim 13 has been canceled without prejudice.

Claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Applicant has canceled claim 22 without prejudice.

Claims 1-15, 17-27, 29-31, 55-57 and 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) or 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,441,385 to Khlif. The rejections are respectfully traversed. Claim 1 has been amended to include the element recited in original dependent claim 11, and recites in part that "the scribe lines are formed substantially perpendicular to the leading edge of the slider." With respect to original claim 11, the Examiner stated on page 10 of the Office Action that Khlif "does not expressly disclose wherein the scribe lines are formed substantially perpendicular to the leading edge of the slider." The Examiner went on to state on page 10 that "official notice" was taken that methods of forming scribes as set forth in claim 11 were notoriously old and well known in the art. Applicant respectfully submits that the use of scribe lines in particular regions of the slider as recited in the elements of claim 1, further



including forming the scribe lines substantially perpendicular to the leading edge of the slider, would not be well known in the art and is not suggested by the Examiner's citations to Khlif. Accordingly, for at least the above reason, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims be withdrawn. Claims 14, 17 and 55 have been amended in a similar manner as claim 1. Accordingly, for at least similar reasons as claim 1, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 14, 17, 55 and their dependent claims be withdrawn. As noted above, dependent claims 9-11 were canceled without prejudice.

For at least the above reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 1-8, 14-15, 17-21, 24-31, 55-57 and 59 be withdrawn.

The Office Action also included various comments concerning the restriction requirement, the art, and the non-patentability of features in various of the above mentioned claims. The discussion above has directly addressed some of those comments and the Examiner's other comments are deemed moot at this time in view of this response.

Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated above. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. If, for any reason, the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner requested to telephone the undersigned to discuss the steps necessary to place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan S. Raynes

Alan S. Raynes

Reg. No. 39,809

KONRAD RAYNES & VICTOR, LLP

315 South Beverly Drive, Suite 210

Beverly Hills, CA 90212

Customer No. 24033

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(310) 556-7983 (tele general)

(310) 871-8448 (tele direct)

(310) 556-7984 (facsimile)

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Alan S. Raynes

Alan S. Raynes

Feb. 6, 2004
(Date)

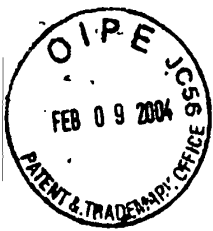
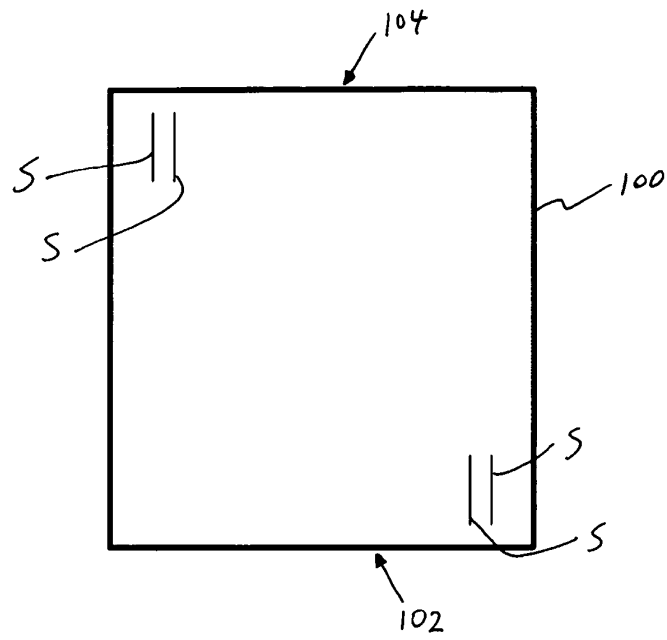


Fig. 5d



Approved
LWK
3-15-04